

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 261730Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1694
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
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CINCLANT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0196

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: SEPARATIST LEADER'S VIEWS

REF: PONTA DELGADA 178 (DTG 181715Z MAY 77) (NOTAL)

1. FLA LEADER, JOSE ALMEIDA, CAME TO THE CONSULATE ON MAY 25
AND SAID THE FOLLOWING:

-- FLAG CRISES: HE HAD NOT EXPECTED THE FLAG CRISES WHICH
DISTURBED THE SANTO CRISTO HOLIDAYS, AND WAS, IN FACT,
TRAVELLING IN EUROPE UNTIL MAY 15. FLA, HOWEVER, WAS IN CONTROL
OF THE EVENTS THE EVENING OF MAY 15 WHEN THE AZOREAN FLAG WAS
RAISED WITH DUE HONORS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT FLA ACCOMPLISHED
ITS AIMS THAT NIGHT (REFTEL).

-- MOTA AMARAL: AS A RESULT OF HIS FIRM DEFENSE OF AZOREAN
POSITION ON THE FLAG QUESTION, REGIONAL PRESIDENT MOTA AMARAL
ONCE MORE HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF FLA, WHETHER HE KNOWS IT OR
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NOT. FLA HAD PREVIOUSLY WITHDRAWN ITS SUPPORT FOR MOTA AMARAL
(BECAUSE IT DID NOT CONSIDER HE WAS DEFENDING AZOREAN AUTONOMY
SUFFICIENTLY).

-- JUNE 6: ALMEIDA HAS INFORMATION FROM HIS SUPPORTERS IN
THE MILITARY THAT THE MILITARY IN THE AZORES WILL BE ON FULL
ALERT ON JUNE 6 (THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MAJOR

INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATION). BUT, FLA IS NOT PLANNING ANY ACTIVITY THAT DAY EXCEPT A MASS AND A CEREMONY AT THE CEMETARY (TO HONOR PREVIOUS DEFENDERS OF AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY). FLA DOES NOT CHOOSE TO HAVE A MILITARY CONFRONTATION ON JUNE 6, BUT MAY USE VIOLENCE AT OTHER TIMES WHEN IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

-- SEPARATIST SUPPORTERS: FLA SUPPORTERS EXIST IN THE MILITARY UNITS HERE AND SUPPLY FLA WITH INFORMATION. FLA SUPPORTERS THROUGHOUT THE AZORES HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE UNITED. THE WEALTHY MEN WHO SUPPORTED FLA ON TERCEIRA AND FAIAL IN 1975 HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY OTHERS.

-- MILITARY INTERVENTION: THERE IS A PLAN FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE AZORES IN ORDER TO DESTABILIZE PORTUGAL SO THE FAR LEFT CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY.

-- EXTREMES WITHIN FLA: FLA HAS EXTREME LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT FACTIONS. ALMEIDA KNOWS WHO THE COMMUNISTS INFILTRATORS ARE AND BELIEVES THEY ARE UNDER CONTROL. THERE HAVE BEEN CONTACTS FROM LIBYA. HIS GREATEST PERSONAL VICTORY HAS BEEN THE REMOVAL OF THE EXTREME RIGHT FROM ALL POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE IN FLA.

-- CONTACTS WITH COMMUNISTS: DURING THE RECENT JOINT MEETING OF AZOREAN AND MADEIRAN SEPARATISTS IN MADEIRA, FLA MADE CLEAR TO THE MADEIRANS THAT IT WOULD HAVE NO CONTACT WITH COMMUNISTS, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST LED SEPARATISTS FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CANARIES. CONTACTS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ARCHIPELAGOS EXCEPT THOSE UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL, ARE VERY USEFUL FOR STUDYING ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS (HE IMPLIED THAT THE MADEIRAN SEPARATISTS MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH THE CANARIES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT).

-- INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS: THERE ARE THREE INTERESTS AT WORK IN THE AZORES: THE PRO-AZOREANS, THE ANTI-AMERICANS WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS COMMUNISTS AND MARXIST SOCIALISTS, AND THE EUROPEANS. AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY IF NOT THROUGH SUPPORT OF HIS FIRST CHOICE (THE U.S.) THEN THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS (HE IMPLIED EUROPEANS).

2. COMMENT: ALMEIDA MENTIONED HE HAD JUST BEEN IN FRANCE AND SPAIN AND MADE IT CLEAR HE HAD POLITICAL CONTACTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. FLA'S FRENCH CONNECTION GOES BACK TO 1975, BUT THE SPANISH TIES APPEAR TO BE MORE RECENT. REPORTS OF LIBYAN INTEREST IN THE AZORES HAVE CROPPED UP REGULARLY SINCE 1975 AND

A FEW WEEKS AGO THE PRESS REPORTED THE LIBYAN CHARGE WOULD VISIT THE AZORES. THE TRIP WAS LATER CANCELLED. ALMEIDA IMPLIED HE OPPOSES LIBYAN ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THE SEPARATISTS. SOME LOCAL POLITICIANS BELIEVE PAQ (AZOREAN PATRIOTS OF THE BARRACKS), SAID TO BE A RECENTLY ORGANIZED SEPARATIST GROUP IN THE MILITARY, HAS SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT IN THE ARMY, BUT OFFICIAL SOURCES DISCOUNT ITS IMPORTANCE.
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